

THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
C H U R C H  
O F  
S C O T L A N D.

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 22d Day of May 1783.

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*Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.*

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EDINBURGH:  
Printed by JAMES DICKSON, Printer to the Church  
of Scotland.  
M,DCC,LXXXIII.

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ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

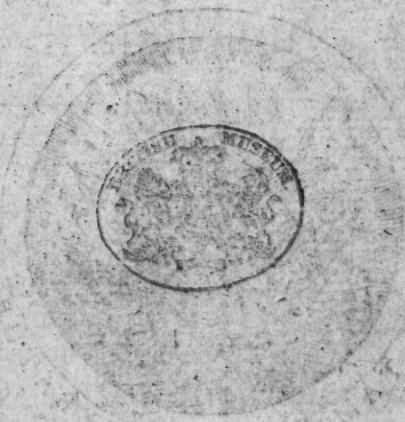
SCOTLAND

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at Glasgow  
M.DCCC.XXIII



THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
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C H U R C H  
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S C O T L A N D,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 22d Day of *May* 1783, and  
concluded the 3d *June* said year.

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I.

The King's Commission to DAVID Earl  
of LEVEN produced, and ordered to  
be recorded.

*Edinburgh, May 22. 1783.*

**T**HE General Assembly of this National Church  
being convened and constituted, there was pro-  
duced to them, by the Right Honourable DA-  
VID Earl of LEVEN, the King's Commission,  
sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union  
to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great  
Seal

Seal of Scotland, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

**G**EORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor*: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigesimo secundo die Maii instantis convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quin etiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis ecclesiæ conventus, die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate et sufficientia fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei, Davidis Comitis de Leven, quod ad summum munus nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, nos tenore præsentium, nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, sicuti nos tenore præsentium nominamus, constituimus, et ordinamus, memoratum fidelissimum et dilectissimum nostrum consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven, supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dādo et concedendo illi plenam nostram potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non præsentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequente generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentēs facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula ab antedicto Davide Comite de Leven, in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime facta, seu fieri ordinata nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper dictæ ecclesiæ pastoribus, et presbyteris cæterisque, subditis nostris, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, cujuscunque, gradus seu qualitatē, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven, tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatam reverentur, agnoscant, et dicto ipsius audientes se præbeant, stricte mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc nostram commissionem, a dicto vigesimo secundo die Maii instantis incipere, et deinceps durante hac subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus, in vigore continuare



*nuare declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium presentibus, sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, quinto die mensis Maii, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et octogesimo-tertio, regni que nostri anno vigesimo-tertio. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis superscript.*

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## II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the  
General Assembly, presented to them  
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

**R**IGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well. Having the most entire confidence in your duty, loyalty and affection to Our Person and Government, and being convinced of your unwearied attention to the cause of Virtue, Piety, and Religion, We take this opportunity of assuring you of Our fixed purpose and resolution to support the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, in the full enjoyment of all its Privileges as by Law established.

Convinced that you bring with you the best intentions for promoting the happiness of my Government, and the true interest of the Church whereof you are members, We have great satisfaction in countenancing your present meeting with Our Royal Authority.

As the preventing the growth of Popery, so repugnant to the constitution of my Kingdoms, and the suppressing all vice and immorality, so destructive to Christianity, are objects which will distinguish your zeal in the advancement of true Religion, and in all which you will always meet with my steady concurrence; so the avoiding all unnecessary debates and contentions amongst yourselves will be equal proofs of, what We have hither-

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to experienced, your great prudence, wisdom, and moderation.

As you cannot but be highly sensible of the benefits which will arise from the inestimable blessings of Peace, We make no doubt but you will think that an humble gratitude is due to Almighty God for these and other Mercies which His Divine Providence has lately vouchsafed to Us.

We are persuaded that you will conscientiously discharge your duties to the people committed to your care, by infusing such principles into their minds, as their holy Religion dictates, and which are the best adapted to the security of Our happy constitution, and their and Our most valuable interests both here and hereafter.

We have appointed Our Right Trusty and Right Well beloved Cousin, David Earl of Leven, to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, being well satisfied of his loyalty, integrity and zeal for Our service, and of his particular affection for the Church of Scotland, so that Our choice of him cannot but be agreeable to you. And We trust that this meeting will be concluded with the same unanimity and brotherly affection which have distinguished your former Assemblies. And so We bid you heartily farewell.

Given at Our Court at St James, the 5th day  
of May 1783, in the twenty-third year of  
Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

N O R T H

III.



III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the  
King's most gracious Letter.

*May it please your Majesty,*

**Y**OUR Majesty's most gracious letter to this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the respect and gratitude due to this renewed proof of your Royal favour.

Your Majesty's confidence in our loyalty to the best of Sovereigns, and in our attachment to the interests of religion, we feel as a most pleasing recompence of our past conduct; and your Royal assurance that it is your fixed purpose and resolution to support this Church in all its privileges, we consider as a most powerful incitement to persevere in fulfilling your Majesty's desire.

May it please your Majesty to accept our most affectionate gratitude for this fresh proof of your goodness in countenancing our present meeting with your Royal authority.

To prevent the growth of Popery, at once so repugnant to the constitution of these kingdoms, and to the holy and beneficent spirit of the Gospel, is an object worthy of our constant zeal; and to this, together with the suppressing of all vice and immorality; we resolve, in the strength of God, to exert our strenuous endeavours; animated to so good a work by the declaration of your Majesty's steady concurrence. In this honourable employment, and in avoiding all unnecessary debates and contentions amongst ourselves, permit us to hope, that your Majesty's experience of the prudence, wisdom, and moderation of former Assemblies, will be received as a pledge of our firm purpose to cultivate the same spirit in our present meeting.

We beg leave to return our humble thanks to your Majesty for your persevering attention to the increase of Christian knowledge, and the interests of the reformation in the remote parts of Scotland. Your Royal dona-  
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tion for this purpose, it shall be our endeavour to apply in such a manner as may best promote the generous and pious intention with which it is bestowed.

Your Majesty's well-known affection to your people, teacheth us to repose an entire confidence in the wisdom of those counsels that have induced your Majesty to restore to these kingdoms the blessings of Peace. For which, and for all the other Mercies of a gracious Providence, we desire to express our thankfulness to Almighty God, and to stir up a like spirit in the people committed to our care.

The inviolable attachment of his Noble Ancestors to the civil and religious liberties of their country, and in particular to the Church of Scotland, his own exemplary regard to Religion, and warm affection to this Church, together with his many other amiable qualities and Christian virtues, make your Majesty's choice of the Earl of Leven, to represent your Royal Person in this Assembly, most acceptable to us.

That the King of Kings may establish your Majesty's Throne in Righteousness and Mercy: That he may preserve you long to reign over a free, grateful and affectionate people: That all your Councils may be wise and prosperous: That he may bless your Majesty in your Person and in your Family; and that when at length you shall relinquish an earthly crown, you may receive that which fadeth not away, through Jesus Christ our Lord, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National  
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

HENRY GRIEVE, *Moderator.*



## IV.

## The General Assembly's Address to his Majesty, on the Peace.

*May it please your Majesty,*

**W**E your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders met in the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, beg leave to address your Majesty, with hearts full of affection and attachment, and with the most grateful sense of your Majesty's paternal goodness, in having pursued measures, by which, under God, we now enjoy the inestimable blessing of Peace: A blessing at all times desirable, but especially at a time, when this country, pressed by a powerful confederacy of its inveterate enemies, united with its former subjects and old allies, were also afflicted with an uncommon degree of scarcity of provisions.

At the end of a war less successful than former wars have been, we consider ourselves as specially called upon by the Providence of God, to exert ourselves in the discharge of our duty, and to cultivate in the minds of the people committed to our care, those sentiments of religion and virtue, which form the hearts of men to that *righteousness which exalteth a nation.*

We are happy in being able to assure your Majesty of the unaltered affection of the people of this part of the united kingdom to your Majesty's Person and Government, and of their zeal for your illustrious Family, under whose mild administration they have so long enjoyed the blessings of civil and religious liberty.

That Almighty God, the King of Kings, and the Ruler of all the nations of men, may continually have your Majesty under his Divine protection: That he may bless you in your Person and in your Family: That he may reward your Majesty's private virtues with domestic felicity, and your mild Government with the love and fidelity of your subjects: That your Reign may be long, happy and prosperous; and that at last your Majesty  
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may, through Jesus Christ our Lord, receive a crown of glory, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,  
Your Majesty's most faithful,  
Most obedient,  
And most loyal subjects,  
The Ministers and Elders met in this National  
Assembly of the Church of Scotland,

Signed in our name,  
In our presence,  
And at our appointment, by

HENRY GRIEVE, *Moderator.*

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## V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr Henry Grieve, minister of the Gospel at Dalkeith, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr John Mathison at Kilmuir Easter, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, Mr Patrick Grant at Bolefskin, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr John M'Leod at Harris, Mr Colin M'Iver at Glenelg, Mr George Rannie at Creech, Mr William M'Kenzie at Tong, Mr Joseph Taylor at Wattin, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, Mr Patrick Barelay at Sandsting, Mr James Lindsay at Kirkliston, Mr Robert Scott at Innerleithen, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk,



veresk, Mr John Trotter at Prestonpans, Mr Selby Ord at Longformacus, Mr George Home at Ayton, Mr William Sheills at Westruther, Mr James Erskine at Robertson, Mr James Yorston at Middlebie, Dr John Burges at Kirkmichael, Mr John Thomson at Sanquhar, Mr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, Mr Nathaniel M'Kie at Balmaclellan, Mr Henry Blane at Stony Kirk, Mr John M'Math at Torbolton, Mr William Boyd at Fenwick, Mr John Monteith, *junior*, at Houston, Mr John Scott at Strathaven, Mr John M'Call at Glasgow, Mr John M'Aulay at Cardross, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothsay, Mr Alexander Hoffack at Jura, Mr Paul Frazer at Craignish, Mr Patrick M'Arthur at Torosay, Mr Peter Stewart at Killin, Mr Alexander Duff at Tippermuir, Mr Robert Ure at Airth, Mr John Braid at Dunning, Mr James Robertson at Calender, Mr David Balfour at Torryburn, Mr Andrew Murray at Auchterderren, Mr Peter Barclay at Kettle, Principal M'Cormick at St Andrews, Professor George Hill there, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr John Bruce at Forfar, Mr John Millar at Inchtute, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, Mr Charles Nisbet at Montrose, Mr William Walker at Ecclesgreig, Mr James Forsyth at Belhelvie, Mr John Ramsay at Strachan, Mr Basil Anderson at Old Dear, Mr Alexander Chalmers at Cairney, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr James Gillon at Kinloss, Mr Alexander Frazer at Kirkhill, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, ministers; Bailie John Walker, Mr Chalmers of Larbert, Mr Frazer of Gortoleg, Mr Andrew Crosbie advocate, the Procurator, Mr M'Kenzie of Applecross, Professor Hugh M'Leod, Mr John Moffman merchant in Edinburgh, Mr James Horn writer to the Signet, Bailie Daniel Miller in Canongate, Mr Robert Cullen advocate, Professor Andrew Dalziel in Edinburgh, Bailie James Dickson in Edinburgh, Bailie William Galloway there, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener Frazer there, Professor John Walker, John Home, Esq; Mr Dickson of Coulter, the Lord Chief Baron, Mr Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, the Lord President, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; Mr George Buchan-Hepburn advocate, Mr Hunter of Thurston, the Lord Advocate, Mr Robert Dundas advocate, Mr Mark Pringle, advocate, Mr John Gloag merchant in Edinburgh, Mr Walter Scott merchant there, Mr James Saunders writer to the Signet, Alexander Ferguson of Craigdarroch, Esq; Mr William Chalmers surgeon in Edinburgh, Bailie James Torry there, Convener John

John Lindsay there, Professor Dugald Stewart there, Mr John Haddoway, the Earl of Hyndford, Mr Alexander Wight advocate, Mr Archibald Campbell advocate, Sir James Colquhoun of Lufs, Bart. James Colquhoun younger of Lufs, Esq; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; Mr Lamont of Knockdow, Mr Archibald Fletcher writer in Edinburgh, Donald M'Lauchlan of M'Lauchlan, Esq; Allan M'Dougall of Galanich, Esq; Mr Elder of Logie, Sir John Belfches, Bart. Mr Morehead of Herbertshire, Bailie Gentle, Dr John Steedman, Edinburgh, Mr John Erskine advocate, Major Melvill of Cairnie, Mr Ayton of Kippo, Dr Andrew Duncan, Edinburgh, David Stewart, Esq; Mr Richard Lake writer to the Signet, Mr Thomas Duncan writer to the Signet, Mr Alexander Burnet advocate, Captain Robert Moodie of Springfield, James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Esq; Mr M'Donald of Rinneton, Mr John Taylor writer to the Signet, Mr Alexander Forbes writer in Edinburgh, Mr Grant of Hilton, Dr Gregory Grant physician, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon writer there, Mr Simon Frazer advocate, Dr James Williamson, the Honourable Henry Erskine advocate, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to,  
and



and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour, among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts: And that every catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally

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nally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accompts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty,



ity, to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the forefaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the faid Committee are appointed to examine the accompts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the faid Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the faid Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Subcommittee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the faid Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.

## VI.

## Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering there are some affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr Henry Grieve, minister of the Gospel at Dalkeith, their Moderator; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr David Dunoan at Kilcoman, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarkie, ministers, and Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tain, Mr John Urquhart at Fairn, Mr John Mathieson at Kilmuir Easter, ministers, and the Right Honourable Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the burgh of Tain, Robert Chalmers of Larbert, Esq; from the presbytery of Dingwall, Dr Patrick Grant at Urray, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, ministers, and Sir John Gordon of Invergordon, Baronet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskin, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, ministers, and James Frazer of Gortoleg, Esq; writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Donald M'Kinnon at Strath, ministers, and Andrew Crosbie, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr James Wilson at Lochs, Mr Hugh Munro at Uig, ministers, and the Procurator, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Uist, Mr Edmund M'Queen at Bara, Mr John M'Leod at Harris, ministers, and the Hon. Henry Erskine, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Murdoch M'Iver at Lochalsh, Mr Colin M'Iver at Glenelg, ministers, John M'Kenzie younger of Applecross, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornoch, Mr George Rainy at Creech, Mr John Bethune at Dornoch, ministers, Professor Hugh M'Leod, Glasgow, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tong, Mr John Thomson at Durness, Mr William M'Kenzie at Tong, ministers, Mr John Mossman merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness,

Mr



Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Joseph Taylor at Wattin, ministers, Mr James Horn writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wick, Bailie Daniel Miller merchant in Canongate; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr William Anderson at Evie and Rendall, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, ministers, Mr Robert Cullen, advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Zetland, Mr James Sands at Lerwick, Mr Patrick Barclay at Sandsting, ministers, Professor Andrew Dalziel, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr William Bennet at Duddingston, Dr Hugh Blair, Mr James Brown, Dr William Gloag, Edinburgh, Dr William Lothian, Canongate, Mr Thomas Randall, Edinburgh, ministers, Bailie James Dickson bookseller, Edinburgh, Bailie William Galloway merchant, and Mr George Brown, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Right Honourable John Grieve, Esq; present Lord Provost of the city, and Mr William Fraser, present Deacon Convener of the Trades, there; from the University of Edinburgh, Dr John Walker, Professor of Natural History; from the Church of Campvere, Mr James Yair at Campvere, and John Home, Esq; from the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr James Lindsay at Kirkliston, Mr William Gib at Uphall, Mr John Henderson at Queensferry, Mr Alexander Wardrop at West Calder, ministers, the Right Honourable Charles Hope-Weir of Craigiehall, and Sir William Augustus-Cunningham of Livingston, ruling elders; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Robert Clarke, Esq; present provost of Linlithgow; from the burgh of Queensferry, Mr William Allan merchant in Queensferry; from the presbytery of Biggar, Mr Bernard Haldane at Glenholm, Mr David Dickson at Liberton, Mr Bryce Little at Covington, ministers, John Dickson of Coulter, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Peebles, Mr William Dalgliesh at Peebles, Mr Robert Scott at Innerleithen, ministers, the Right Honourable the Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the burgh of Peebles, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; from the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Ebenezer Marshall at Cockpen, ministers, the Right Honourable the Lord President, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Haddington, Mr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr James Innes at Yester, Mr John Trotter at Prestonpans, ministers, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Haddington, Mr Patrick M'Clarran merchant in Haddington; from the burgh of

North Berwick, Hugh Dalrymple, Esq; younger of North Berwick; from the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr William Crombie at Spott, Mr Alexander Davidson at Stenton, ministers, George Buchan-Hepburn of Smeiton, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunbar, Robert Hunter of Thurston, Esq; from the presbytery of Dunse, Mr Robert Home at Polwart, Mr Selby Ord at Longformacus, ministers, Matthew Sandilands of Couston, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Churnside, Mr James Williamson at Eymouth, Mr George Home at Aytown, ministers, John Stewart, Esq; younger of Allanbank, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kelfo, Mr William Simpson at Morebattle, Mr Andrew Scott at Stitchell, ministers, the Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr John Cranston at Ancrum, Mr William Paton at Eckford, Mr Thomas Elliot at Cavers, ministers, Robert Dundas, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lauder, Mr Laurence Johnston at Earlston, Mr William Shiells at Westruther, ministers, the Right Honourable the Earl of Lauderdale, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lauder, John Tait of Pirn, Esq; from the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr James Erskine at Robertson, Mr Simon Halliburton at Ashkirk, ministers, Mark Pringle, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Selkirk, Mr John Gloag merchant in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Annan, Mr Alexander Brown at Hoddum, Mr James Yorston at Middlebie, ministers, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Baronet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Annan, Mr Walter Scott merchant in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr Robert Rutherford at Castletown, Mr John Dowe at Canonby, ministers, Mr James Sanders writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochmaben, Mr William Scott at Kirkpatrick Juxta, Mr John Nimmo at Johnston, Dr John Burges at Kirkmichael, ministers, Mr John Mitchell, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lochmaben, Alexander Ferguson of Craigdarroch, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr John Thomson at Sanquhar, Mr James Wallace at Keir, ministers, Gilbert Grierson of Merwhern, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Sanquhar, Mr William Aird in Killofide; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr Archibald Lawson at Kirkmahoe, Mr James M'Millan at Torthorwall, Mr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, ministers, Mr Alexander Waugh at Dunscore, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumfries, William Hope-Weir, Esq; of Blackwood;



Blackwood; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr William Donaldson at Parton, Mr John M'Naught at Girthon, Mr Nathaniel M'Kie at Balmaclellan, ministers, Mr Robert Ramsay tenant in Marytoun, ruling elder; from the burgh of New Galloway, Mr William Chalmer surgeon in Edinburgh; from the burgh of Wigton, Mr James Torry merchant in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Stranrawer, Mr Robert Callander at Kirkmaiden, Mr Henry Blane at Stonykirk, ministers, Major John Ross of Balkail, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Stranrawer, Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Ayr, Mr John Steel at Stair, Mr William Auld at Mauchlin, Mr William M'Gill at Ayr, Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk, Mr John M'Math at Torbolton, ministers, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; and William Wallace, Esq; Sheriff-depute of Ayr, ruling elders; from the burgh of Ayr, Professor Dugald Stewart, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Irvine, Mr John Robertson at Kilmarnock, Mr Thomas Brisbane at Dunlope, Mr William Boyd at Fenwick, ministers, the Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Paisley, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Dr John Adam at Greenock, Mr John Montieth, *junior*, at Houston, Mr James Mylne of the Abbey parish, ministers, Mr Hugh Jameson, one of the present Magistrates of Paisley, and Mr John Haddoway merchant in Leith, ruling elders; from the burgh of Renfrew, Mr William Adam farmer in Mosslands; from the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Alexander Dobie at Glasford, Mr Henry Stevenson at Blantyre, Mr John Scott at Strathaven, ministers, Mr Alexander Fleeming, preacher of the gospel, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lanark, Mr Robert Buchanan at Lesmahago, Mr George Mark at Carnwath, ministers, the Right Honourable the Earl of Hyndford, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lanark, Mr Alexander Wight, advocate; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Mr John M'Call, Mr William Taylor in Glasgow, Mr John Hamilton at Cathcart, Mr William Thom at Goyan, ministers, Mr John M'Aslane, one of the Bailies of Glasgow, and Professor John Anderson, Glasgow, ruling elders; from the city of Glasgow, Archibald Campbell, Esq; advocate; from the University of Glasgow, Professor Archibald Arthur, Glasgow; from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr Duncan M'Farlane at Drymen, Mr John M'Aulay at Cardross, Mr John Gillespie at Arrochar, ministers, Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Baronet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumbarton, James Colquhoun, Esq;

Esq; younger of Luss; from the presbytery of Dunoon, Mr John Melvill at Dunoon, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothsay, ministers, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Rothsay, James Lamont of Knockdow, Esq; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr John Hamilton at Kilmore in Arran, Mr Alexander Hosack at Jura, Mr Alexander Campbell at Kilcalmoneil, ministers, Mr Archibald Fletcher writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inverary, Mr Hugh Campbell at Kilmartin, Mr Paul Fraser at Craignish, ministers, Donald M'Lauchlan of M'Lauchlan, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Inverary, Dr James Williamson, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Glasgow; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Ludovick Grant at Ardchatten, Mr Patrick M'Donald at Kilmore, ministers, Colonel Robert Campbell of Monzie, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Mull, Mr Patrick M'Arthur at Torroisay, Mr Archibald M'Call at Tiree, ministers, Allan M'Dougall of Gallanish, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Andrew Williamson at Aughtergaven, Mr Charles M'Hardie at Kirkmichael, Mr James M'Diarmid at Weim, Mr Peter Stewart at Killin, ministers, Thomas Elder of Logie, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr Henry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr James Hunter at Scone, Mr Alexander Duff at Tippermuir, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Kinnoul, ministers, Sir John Belches, Baronet, and George Wright of Laton, Esq; ruling elders; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr Thomas Oswald at Clackinanan, Mr Robert Ure at Airth, ministers, William Morehead of Herbertshire, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Stirling, James Moir, Esq; present Provost of Stirling; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr David Kemp at Gask, Mr John Scott at Muthill, Mr John Baird at Dunning, ministers, Bailie James Gentle, brewer, Canongate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr James Wright at Logie, Mr James Robertson at Callender, ministers, Professor William Richardson, Glasgow, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Robert Liston at Aberdour, Mr James Reid at Beath, Mr David Balfour at Torryburn, ministers, Dr John Steedman, physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunfermline, Bailie William Hutton merchant in Dunfermline; from the burgh of Inverkeithing, Mr John Eckford merchant, and late Bailie of Dunfermline; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr John Pinkerton at Markinch,



inch, Mr Henry Moir at Auchtertool, Mr Andrew Murray at Auchterderran, ministers, James Townsend-Oswald of Dunnikier, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcaldy, Mr James Fergus merchant in Kirkcaldy; from the burgh of Kinghorn, John Erskine, Esq; advocate; from the burgh of Dysart, Mr Alexander Thomson merchant, and present chief Magistrate of the burgh of Dysart; from the presbytery of Cupar, Mr Andrew Hutton at Kilmeny, Mr Andrew Walker at Coleffie, Mr Peter Barclay at Kettle, Mr Andrew Thomson at Balmerino, ministers, John Balfour of Balbirny, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melvill of Cairney; from the presbytery of St Andrews, Principal M'Cormick, Mr John Nairn at Anstruther Easter, Mr James Burn at Forgon, Mr John Braid at Dinninno, ministers, James Ayton of Kippo, Esq; Mr Thomas Ballerdie merchant in Anstruther, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrews, Dr Andrew Duncan, physician in Edinburgh; from the University of St Andrews, Professor George Hill; from the presbytery of Meigle, Mr James Ogilvie at Eassie, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr James Badenoch at Kingoldrum, ministers, Patrick Alison of Newhall, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, Mr John Bruce at Forfar, ministers, George Dempster of Dunichen, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Forfar, David Stewart, Esq; late Lord Provost of Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Dundee, Dr Robert Small at Dundee, Mr John Miller at Inchtute, Mr David Davidson at Dundee, ministers, Mr James Thomson, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberbrothick, Mr John Aitken at St Vigiens, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, ministers, Mr Richard Lake writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Aberbrothick, Mr Thomas Duncan writer in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Brechin, Mr James Paton at Craig, Mr Charles Nisbet at Montrose, Mr James Wilson at Marytown, ministers, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Montrose, Captain Robert Moodie of Springfield; from the presbytery of Fordown, Mr Robert Young at Benholm, Mr Patrick Stewart at Kineff, Mr William Walker at Ecclefgreig, ministers, Mr John Playfair, late minister at Liff, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Mr George Ogilvie at Banchory-Devonich, Mr James Forsyth at Belhelvie, Mr Robert Dunbar at Old Machar, Mr William Stronach at New Machar, ministers, James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Esq; George Strachan-Keith, Esq;

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of Auguhorik, ruling elders; from King's College, Mr Roderick M'Leod sub-principal; from the presbytery of Kincardine O' Neal, Mr Francis Downie at Banchory-terran, Mr John Ramsay at Strachan, Mr William Shand at Lumphannan, ministers, William M'Donald of Rinneton, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Alford, Mr James Gordon at Cabrach, Mr Robert Lumsden at Kildrummy, Mr Benjamin Mercer at Forbes and Kearn, ministers, John Gordon of Craig, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ellon, Mr John Rose at Udney, Mr William Paterfson at Logie, ministers, Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Garioch, Mr Thomas Shepherd at Bourtie, Mr William Davidfson at Inverury, Mr George Skene-Keith at Keith-hall, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Westhall, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Deer, Mr William Cumine at Rathen, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr Basil Anderson at Old Deer, ministers, Mr John Taylor writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Turriff, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Robert Ballingall at Forglen, ministers, Mr Alexander Forbes writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr George Grant at Rathven, Mr James Lawtie at Fordyce, ministers, Mr John Robertson writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr Alexander Angus at Botriphnie, Mr Alexander Chalmers at Cairnie, ministers, Mr Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr James Ogilvie at Rothes, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, ministers, Isaac Grant of Hiltown, Esq; clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr John Anderson at Kingufie, ministers, Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr William Peterkin at Elgin, ministers, Mr Thomas Gordon writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Coull at Edenkilly, Mr James Gillan at Kinlofs, ministers, Bailie Duncan Grant of Forres, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inverness, Mr Malcolm Nicolson at Kiltarlity, Mr Alexander Frafer at Kirkhill, ministers, Simon Frafer, Esq; Sheriff-depute of Inverness, ruling elder; and the Assembly added thereto Dr George Wishart, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; and all the members whose commissions had been rejected by the Assembly on account of informality, to be Commissioners of this General



neral Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force, as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen  
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such affairs for the next General Assembly ; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end : Likewise to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, be correct ; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein ; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned : And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same ; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money ; which two acts are printed among the Acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed ; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission ; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission ; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof ; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission,



sion, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant Churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further empower and direct the said Commission, to make due application to the King and Parliament for redress of the grievance of Patronage, in case a favourable opportunity for so doing shall occur during the subsistence of this Commission: And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

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## VII.

### Resolution of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, relating to a Fast.

*Edinburgh, May 29. 1783.*

**T**HERE were transmitted to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, overtures from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, and from the Synod of Moray, proposing, that, upon account of the present scarcity, and other obvious reasons, a day should be set apart for Fasting and Prayer, to be observed as a National Fast through Scotland, which being read, — The following motion was made, *viz.* The General Assembly taking into their serious consideration the late visitation of divine Providence, in afflicting these kingdoms with an uncommon scarcity of provisions, and also the seasonable relief which the people of Scotland have lately received by the importation of

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large quantities of grain, the favourable seed-time, and the comfortable prospect of an early harvest, which God, in his great goodness, hath been pleased to afford us, do earnestly exhort and beseech the people of this land to lift up their souls with contrition and thankfulness to Almighty God, who, tempering his chastisements and his mercies together, calleth us to return to himself.—And further, the General Assembly being informed that a day of Fasting has already been appointed by some Synods and Presbyteries, and observed within their bounds; and judging it, upon this account, inexpedient to appoint a National Fast, do hereby recommend to the several Presbyteries, and to all the ministers of this Church, to exert their utmost endeavours, in imprinting upon the minds of the people committed to their charge, a sense of their dependence upon our Father which is in heaven, who giveth us our daily bread; and to take such methods as to them shall appear most effectually to minister to edification, in order to fix the attention of all ranks upon those lessons of contrition, of thankfulness, and of liberality, which the various dispensations of divine Providence are, at this time especially, teaching us.—The General Assembly having considered the above motion, approved thereof, and enacted accordingly, and appointed this resolution to be printed separately, and transmitted to Presbyteries as soon as possible.

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### VIII.

**Act and Resolution concerning Lawyers and Agents who are Members of the Court, appearing as Procurators or Agents to plead or agent in Causes at the Bar of the General Assembly, or Commission.**

*Edinburgh, June 2. 1783. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE General Assembly considering that they have a title to the assistance of their members as judges in all causes brought before them, they being expressly commissioned by their constituents, to consult, vote, and determine, in all matters that shall come before the Assembly: As also, that those who are appointed members of the



the Commission of the General Assembly, are obliged by that appointment to concur in cognoscing and determining in every matter referred to them, Do therefore Resolve, Enact and Declare, That in time coming, none who are constituent members of the Court, shall act as counsel or procurators, agents or solicitors, in any causes which come before the Assemblies or Commissions thereof.

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## IX.

[The General Assembly re-transmits to Presbyteries the following Overture, and recommends it to them to pay particular attention thereto.]

### Overture anent the Ordination of Elders.

THAT whereas great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the Ordination of Elders, it should be enacted, That no minister should set apart any person to that sacred office in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or such property in it as would entitle him to vote in the calling of a minister; it being the true meaning and intent of this overture to prevent Elders being ordained in congregations who are in no way connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this overture.

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## X.

Edinburgh, 2d June 1783.

[The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland appointed a new Edition of the Forms of Commissions, formerly printed in 1769, in which the Subscription to each form is particularly marked, to be published and transmitted to all Presbyteries, Kirk-Sessions, Burghs and Universities, who are hereby required strictly to observe the same, and to engross the same in their minutes.]

### Forms of Commissions, &c.

THE General Assembly 1766, having prescribed certain Forms of Commissions to Members of Assembly, and Attestations thereof, and the Assembly 1767 having,

having, in respect of some defects observed in these Forms, made a Supplement thereto; the General Assembly, now considering the disadvantage of having what belongs to the necessary Forms of Commissions and Attestations lying in separate Acts, by which the electors or their clerks may be more liable to mistakes or omissions, than if the whole was laid before them in one view, did appoint both to be brought together into one Act as follows; and the Agent for the Church to cause print the same, and transmit copies thereof to the several Presbyteries, Universities, and Burghs.

The General Assembly, considering that it is of the greatest importance for the honour and interest of Religion, that the office-bearers of the Church should behave and conduct themselves in all respects becoming their character, do, in terms of the Act of Assembly, 22d May 1722, earnestly beseech, exhort, and require all Ministers to take heed to themselves, and to their doctrine, and to be exemplary to their People in sobriety, righteousness, and holiness, abstaining from all appearance of evil: And in like manner, the General Assembly do earnestly beseech, exhort, and require the Elders and Deacons to be faithful in the discharge of their respective offices, tender and circumspect in their walk, punctual in their attending upon ordinances, strict in their observation of the Lord's Day, and regular in keeping up the worship of God in their families. The Assembly do further enjoin and require, for the more regular election of Members to the Assembly in time coming, Presbyteries, Burghs, and Universities, strictly to observe the Acts of former Assemblies, appointing that the election shall be made at least forty days before the meeting of Assembly, and within a month preceding the first of the said forty days, except those lying in the Northern and Western Isles, and shall appoint the day of election at a meeting to be entered in their minutes, at least ten free days before such election; and that on the day of election, they shall make their elections betwixt the hours of one and eight o'clock in the evening.

The General Assembly considering also, that some Acts regulating the manner and time of electing Members to the Assembly, are posterior to the Act 17th May 1725, establishing Forms of their Commissions; and that these Forms refer in general to Acts of Assembly that contain some particulars, of which Presbyteries, Universities and Burghs, cannot have any certain evidence, and are thereby reduced to the necessity, either of attesting what does  
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not come properly under their own knowledge, or of omitting clauses in the established form, whereby their Commissions have been rendered void and null; the Assembly did, on all these accounts, and hereby do, appoint and ordain the Forms of Commissions and Attestations, hereunto subjoined, to be observed by Presbyteries, Sessions, Universities and Burghs; and enact and ordain, That all such Commissions and Attestations, as are not conceived and attested in these very words of the Form now prescribed, shall be rejected.

The General Assembly do further declare and enact, That when a Kirk-Session or Presbytery refuse their concurrence or attestation to a Commission by a Burgh or University, without assigning the reasons of their refusal, that Commission shall be sustained as if duly attested, in case the matter shall be brought before the Assembly by protest or appeal.

*Form of COMMISSIONS by Presbyteries.*

At the      Day of      Years. THE which day, the Presbytery of      being convened betwixt the hours of one and eight o'clock in the evening, in order to elect their Representatives to the ensuing Assembly, pursuant to a resolution entered into their minutes on the day of      did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint Mr      Minister at      and Mr      Minister at      and      Ruling Elders, their Commissioners to the next General Assembly of this Church, indicted to meet at      the day of      next to come, or when and where it shall happen to fit, willing them to repair thereto, and to attend all the diets of the same; and there to consult, vote, and determine in all matters that come before them, to the glory of God and the good of his Church, according to the Word of God, the Confession of Faith, and agreeable to the Constitution of this Church, as they will be answerable; and that they report their diligence therein at their return therefrom. And the said Presbytery does hereby testify and declare, That all the Ministers above named have signed the *Formula* enjoined by the 10th act of the Assembly 1711; and the Ruling Elders above written have signed the *Formula* prescribed by the 11th act of the Assembly 1694. And further, that the said Elders are of unblemished characters, circumspect in their walk, regular in giving attendance on the Ordinances of Divine Institution, and behave in other respects agreeable to their

office: All which the Presbytery have hereby attested on proper information. Extracted by *A. B. Cls.*

*Form in the Case of an After-Election of a Commissioner, in the Place of one formerly chosen.*

*At the Day of Years.* THE which day, the Presbytery of being convened betwixt the hours of one and eight in the evening, and (here the occasion of the new Election to be narrated) did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint in his place, Mr Minister at (or, if an Elder, Ruling Elder) their Commissioner to the next General Assembly; and do hereby testify and declare (if a Minister) that he hath signed the *Formula* enjoined by the 10th act of Assembly 1711; (if an Elder) that he is in all respects qualified in the same manner as their Commissioner in whose room he is chosen, which the Presbytery hereby attests upon proper information. Extracted by *A. B. Cls.*

#### A T T E S T A T I O N.

*At the Day of Years.* THE which day, the Presbytery of having had the above extract of their Commission to their Representatives in the ensuing Assembly laid before them, they caused it to be read, and having revised and considered the same, they did approve thereof. Attested by *A. B. Moderator.*  
or *C. D. Cls.*

*Form of COMMISSIONS from Universities.*

*At the Day of Years.* THE which day, the Principal, Professors, Masters, and other Members of the University of having right to elect, being convened betwixt the hours of one and eight o'clock in the evening, in order to elect their Representative to the ensuing Assembly, pursuant to a resolution entered into their Minutes on the day of did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint their Commissioner to the next General Assembly of this Church, indicted to meet at the day of next to come, or when and where it shall happen to fit, willing him to repair thereto, and to attend at all the diets of the same, and there to consult, vote, and determine in all matters that come before them, to the glory of God, and the good of his Church, according to the Word of God, the Confession of Faith, and agreeable to the Constitution



tion of this Church, as he will be answerable; and that he report his diligence therein at his return therefrom. And it is hereby testified and declared, That the said is a Minister, or (an Elder) of this Church, lawfully ordained, and (if a Minister) hath signed the *Formula* enjoined by the 10th act of the Assembly *anno* 1711; or (if an Elder) hath signed the *Formula* prescribed by the 11th act of the Assembly 1694. And further, That the said Commissioner is every other way qualified to be a Member of the Assembly, according to the acts of the Assembly, and (if an Elder, it must be said in particular) he is of an unblemished character, circumspect in his walk, regular in giving attendance on the Ordinances of Divine Institution, and behaves in other respects agreeable to his office. All which the University have hereby attested on proper information.

Extracted by C. D. Cls.

*Form for Universities, in the Case of an After-Election of a Commissioner, in the Place of one formerly chosen.*

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Principal, Professors, Masters, and other Members of the University of being convened betwixt the hours of one and eight in the evening, and (here the occasion of the new Election to be narrated) did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint in his place their Commissioner to the next General Assembly; and it is hereby testified and declared, That he is in all respects qualified in the same manner as their former Commissioner, in whose room he is chosen, which the University attests on proper information.

Extracted by C. D. Cls.

N. B. This Form for Universities is prescribed, on the supposition that the former Commissioner, and the person chosen in his place, are either both of them Ministers, or both of them Elders: But if an Elder is chosen in the place of a Minister, or a Minister in the place of an Elder, then the attestation must contain the words at length of the form prescribed for the first election.

#### A T T E S T A T I O N.

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Presbytery of having had before them a Commission given by the University of to represent the said University in the ensuing General Assembly of

of this National Church, do, in terms of the 4th act of Assembly 1720, the 7th act of Assembly 1723, and 4th act of Assembly 1724, testify and declare, That the said  
 is a Minister (or, an Elder) lawfully ordained; that he has signed the *Formula* enjoined by the 10th act of Assembly 1711; or (if an Elder) hath signed the *Formula* prescribed by the 11th act of Assembly 1694; and that he is a Master of the said University, or And further, That the said Commissioner is every other way qualified to be a Member of the Assembly, according to the Acts of Assembly. This signed by

A. B. Moderator.

or C. D. Cls.

*Form of COMMISSIONS from Burghs.*

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Magistrates and Town-Council of being convened in Council, betwixt the hours of one and eight o'clock in the evening, in order to elect their Representative to the ensuing Assembly, pursuant to a resolution entered into their Minutes on the day of did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint Ruling Elder, their Commissioner to the next General Assembly of this Church, indicted to meet at the day of next to come, or when and where it shall happen to fit, willing him to repair thereto, and to attend all the diets of the same; and there to consult, vote, and determine in all matters that come before them, to the glory of God, and the good of his Church, according to the Word of God, the Confession of Faith, and agreeable to the Constitution of this Church, as he will be answerable; and that he report his diligence therein at his return therefrom. And it is hereby testified and declared, That the said is an Elder of this Church, lawfully ordained, and hath signed the *Formula* enjoined by the 11th act of Assembly 1694, and is every other way qualified to be a Member of Assembly, and likewise that he is (a residenter in the said Burgh) or (an Heritor in the said Burgh) or (an Heritor in the bounds of the Presbytery of within which the said Burgh lies) or (has formerly resided and officiated as an Elder in the said Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which the said Burgh doth lie) according to the Acts of Assembly; and, in particular, that he is of an unblemished character, circumspect in his walk, regular in giving attendance on the Ordinances of Divine Institution, and behaves in other respects



respects agreeable to his office. All which the Magistrates and Town-Council have attested on proper information.  
Extracted by C. D. Cls.

*Form for Burghs in the Case of an After-Election of a Commissioner in the Place of one formerly chosen.*

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Magistrates and Town-Council of being convened betwixt the hours of one and eight in the evening, (here the occasion of the new Election to be narrated) did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint in his place Ruling Elder, their Commissioner to the next General Assembly; and it is hereby testified and declared, That the said is (a residenter in the said Burgh) or (an heritor in the said burgh) or (an heritor in the bounds of the Presbytery of within which the said Burgh lies) or (has formerly resided and officiated as an Elder in the said Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which the said Burgh lies) and that he is in all other respects qualified in the same manner as their former Commissioner, in whose room he is chosen, which the Magistrates and Town-Council do attest on proper information. Extracted by C. D. Cls.

ATTESTATION by the Kirk-Session.

At the Day of Years. THE which day, the Kirk-session of having laid before them, a Commission by the Magistrates and Town-council of to Ruling Elder, to represent the said Burgh in the ensuing General Assembly of this National Church, do, in the terms of the 4th act of Assembly 1720, testify and declare, That the said is an Elder lawfully ordained; and that he has signed the *Formula* prescribed by the 11th act of the General Assembly 1694; and likewise that he is (a residenter in the said Burgh) or (an heritor in the said Burgh) or (an heritor in the bounds of the said Presbytery of within which the said Burgh lies) or (has formerly resided and officiated as an Elder in the said Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which the said Burgh doth lie.) Attested by A. B. Moderator.  
or C. D. Cls.

ATTESTATION *by the Presbytery.*

*At the Day of Years.* THE which day, the Presbytery of having had produced before them, a Commission given by the Magistrates and Town-council of to to represent the said Burgh in the ensuing General Assembly of this National Church, with an Attestation of the Kirk-session of the said Burgh, conform to the direction of the Act 9th of Assembly 1718, Act 4th, Assembly 1720, and Act 4th, Assembly 1724, do, in terms of the foresaid Acts, likewise testify and declare, That the said is an Elder lawfully ordained, and that he has signed the *Formula* prescribed by the 11th Act of Assembly 1694; and likewise, that he is (a residenter in the said Burgh) or (an heritor in the said Burgh) or (heritor in the bounds of the Presbytery of within which the said Burgh lies) or (has formerly resided and officiated as an Elder in the said Burgh) or (Presbytery of within which the said Burgh doth lie); and further, That the said Commissioner is every other way qualified to be a member of the Assembly, according to the Acts of Assembly. This signed by *A. B. Moderator.* or *C. D. Cls.*

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## XI.

## Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 20th day of May, in the year 1784.

*Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by*

JOHN DRYSDALE, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

TABLE



# TABLE of the Printed ACTS of the General Assembly, held in the year 1783.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <i>Page.</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| I. <i>THE King's Commission to DAVID Earl of Leven produced, and ordered to be recorded,</i> -                                                                                                                      | 3            |
| II. <i>The King's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner,</i>                                                                                                | 5            |
| III. <i>The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter,</i> - - -                                                                                                                                 | 7            |
| IV. <i>The General Assembly's Address to his Majesty on the Peace,</i> - - -                                                                                                                                        | 9            |
| V. <i>Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end,</i> - - -                             | 10           |
| VI. <i>Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing affairs referred to them,</i> -                                                                                                               | 16           |
| VII. <i>Resolution of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, relating to a Fast,</i> - -                                                                                                                   | 25           |
| VIII. <i>Act and Resolution concerning Lawyers and Agents who are Members of the Court, appearing as Procurators or Agents to plead or agent in Causes at the Bar of the General Assembly, or Commission,</i> - - - | 26           |
| IX. <i>Overture anent the Ordination of Elders,</i> -                                                                                                                                                               | 27           |
| X. <i>Forms of Commissions, &amp;c.</i> - -                                                                                                                                                                         | ib.          |
| XI. <i>Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly,</i>                                                                                                                                                    | 34           |

# TABLE of the Printed Acts of the General Assembly, held in the year 1783.

- I. The King's Commission to David Blair, Esq.  
produced, and ordered to be recorded.
- II. The King's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly,  
presented to them by the Majesty's Commissioners.
- III. The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most  
gracious Letter.
- IV. The General Assembly's Address to his Majesty on the  
10th of April.
- V. Commission to James Blair, Esq. and Riding Elder, for  
the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of  
Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal  
Bounty for that end.
- VI. Commission to James Blair, Esq. and Riding Elder, for  
discharging the duties referred to them.
- VII. Resolution of the General Assembly of the Church of  
Scotland, relating to a Fast.
- VIII. Act and Resolution concerning Lawyers and Agents  
also are Members of the Court, appearing as  
Procurators or Agents to plead or argue in Cause  
at the Bar of the General Assembly, or Com-  
mission.
- IX. Ordinance about the Ordination of Elders.
- X. Forms of Commissions, &c.
- XI. Act appointing the Day of the next General Assembly.



# INDEX or ABRIDGMENT

O F T H E

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly  
of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1783,  
which are not printed at full length.

*May 22. 1783. Sess. 1st.*

**A**FTER sermon by the Reverend Principal M'Cormick of St Andrews, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Elders convened in the Assembly-house; and, after prayer by the said Principal M'Cormick, Dr Henry Grieve minister of the Gospel at Dalkieth, was unanimously chosen Moderator, and, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The King's Commission to the Right Honourable David Earl of Leven, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to the Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

His Majesty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered into the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

The same Committee named, to draw up an Address to his Majesty on the Peace.

A Committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving in lists of the probationers in the several presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A letter from the Reverend Dr George Wishart, one of the principal clerks, desiring to be excused from attending, on account of the state of his health, read, and the desire thereof unanimously granted.

A Committee for overtures named.

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I N D E X. 1783.

A Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.  
Adjournment.

May 23. 1783. *Sess. 2d.*

Sederunt.

A diet spent in prayer.

New commissions produced.

Act VII. of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of this Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committee for revising commissions appointed to meet this evening in their usual place.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening in their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 24. 1783. *Sess. 3d.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The report of the Committee for overtures, called for, given in, and read over.

An objection to the commission from the Presbytery of Fordyce, heard; the objection sustained, and the Commissioners names ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The consideration of the objection to the commissions from the University of St Andrews, and the burgh of Kirkcaldy, delayed till Tuesday.

An objection to the commission from the burgh of Inverary, heard; the Assembly sustained the objection, and ordered the Commissioner's name to be expunged from the roll.

The consideration of the commission from the burgh of Dunfermline, delayed till Monday.

An objection to the commission from the burgh of Cupar, heard; the Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the commission.

The draught of an answer to the King's most Gracious Letter to this Assembly, brought in and approved, and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The draught of an address to his Majesty on the Peace, brought in, and approved; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The



*I N D E X. 1783.*

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee of bills, called for, produced and read over.

Resolved to consider on Monday Mr Meldrum's petition, immediately after the petition of Bailie Hutton.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audite the Procurator and Agent's accompts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Committee for overtures empowered to receive in from the several members any instructions given to them by their respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Assembly; and receive in and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing or suppressing thereof.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock.

Adjournment.

*May 26. 1783. Sess. 4th.*  
Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for overtures produced and read.

Agreed to consider to-morrow the overtures from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, and the Synod of Moray, anent a national Fast. And on Wednesday, the overtures from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, and Synod of Fife, relating to the law of Patronage.

Report of the Committee of bills, called for, produced, and read.

Synod-books called for; the Synod-book of Glenelg and Lothian and Tweeddale produced, and Committees appointed to revise the same; none of the other Synod-books were brought up: Resolved that the reasons for their absence be enquired into.

Agreed to consider on Friday the cause of Moy, the cause of Dalton to-morrow, and the cause of Carsphairn on Thursday.

I N D E X. 1783.

An appeal of Bailie William Hutton merchant in Dunfermline, against the Kirk-session in Dunfermline, for refusing to attest his commission from the burgh of Dunfermline. Also an appeal of the Kirk-session of Dunfermline, from a sentence of the Synod of Fife, dismissing the whole proceedings of the Presbytery of Dunfermline, and Kirk-session of Dunfermline, respecting a sentence of suspension pronounced against the said Bailie William Hutton by the said Kirk-session, for neglect of duty as a member of said Session, heard; the sentence of the Synod reversed, the sentence of the Presbytery affirmed, and Bailie Hutton's commission sustained.

A petition for the Reverend Mr Alexander Meldrum respecting his ordination, heard. The Assembly leave it to the Synod of Fife to hear the Presbytery of St Andrews, and Mr Meldrum, on the question regarding his ordination; but, in the mean time, remove the preclusion pronounced by the Synod, until the cause shall be determined, and, mean time, allow Mr Meldrum to exercise within this Church, the special powers conveyed by his ordination.

The Committee for revising commissions, to meet to-morrow morning a quarter before ten; and the Committee for overtures at ten.

Adjournment.

May 27. 1783. Sess. 5th.  
Sederunt.

New commissions produced. The objection to the commissions from the University of St Andrews, and from the Burghs of Dyfart and Kirkcaldy, delayed till Friday.

The overtures from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, and Synod of Moray, respecting a national Fast, delayed till Thursday morning.

An appeal of Dr William Bryden, minister of the Gospel at Dalton, against several interlocutors of the Synod of Dumfries, in the cause at the instance of the Parishioners of Dalton against him; a petition from the Synod of Dumfries, and parish of Dalton; and a petition for Dr David Lamont, and Mr Thomas Smith, dissenters and complainers against the sentence of the Synod, heard; the several articles considered one by one. As to the first, viz. the grounds of exculpation offered by Dr Bryden, found not sufficient to entitle him



him to a proof prior to a proof of the articles of the libel; but allowed Dr Bryden a conjunct proof of all facts and circumstances that may tend to alleviation or exculpation. As to the second, the sentences of the Presbytery and Synod, repelling the objection to Messrs Dickson and Adam Richardson judging in the cause, *reversed*. As to the third, the Assembly rejected the requisition of an amendment of the libel, and addition to the list of witnesses. And as to the appeal against the sentence of the Presbytery, refusing to authorise the neighbouring ministers to dispense sealing ordinances to the Parishioners of Dalton, the Assembly affirmed said sentence.

The Committee on public accounts appointed to meet to-morrow morning at half past nine, in the Society Hall.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with the usual powers.

On a motion, the Committee of bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning at half past ten o'clock.

The Committee on the window and house-tax renewed, with the usual powers.

**Adjournment.**

May 28. 1783. *Sess. 6th.*

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

Upon a motion by the Reverend Mr Kemp, a member of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, the Assembly continue the appointment made by last General Assembly, for a collection for transmitting and printing the Bible in the Galic language, on such parishes as have not yet made the collection.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, produced and read.

The Procurator, Agent and Printer's accounts, produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

Agreeable to a former resolution, the Assembly proceeded to consider the overtures from the Synod of Fyfe, and Synod of Perth and Stirling, respecting the law of Patronage; and, after reasoning, two motions were made and seconded; 1<sup>st</sup>, To dismiss these overtures *simpliciter*; 2<sup>d</sup>, That the Assembly will ordain all the Presbyteries of this Church, having previously consulted the landed interest upon the day when they shall choose a representative to next Assembly, to take under their serious deliberation this point, Whether they approve of an application to Parliament for a restoration of the mode

mode of settling ministers established by the act 1690; and that they return their opinion by their Commissions to next Assembly, &c. The question being put, the first motion carried, and the Assembly dismissed the said overtures *simpliciter*. Against which, several members dissented.

Upon a motion, the Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow at half past ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1783. *Sess. 7th.*

Sederunt.

Several members adhered to the dissent of yesterday against the decision respecting the law of Patronage.

The report of the Committee for classing overtures was given in and read.

The overture anent the ordination of Elders retransmitted. *Vide Printed Acts.*

The Synod-books of Fyfe, and of Angus and Mearns, produced.

Agreeable to a resolution at a former diet, the Assembly proceeded to consider the overtures from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, and Synod of Moray, anent the general Fast. A motion made and agreed to by the Assembly. *Vide Printed Acts.*

An appeal of Mr Robert Affleck, Preacher of the Gospel, against a sentence of the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright, of date the 7th of May instant, heard; the sentence of the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright affirmed, finding the first, second and fourth articles of the libel proved; and, therefore, that Mr Affleck is unqualified to be, and cannot be settled as minister of Carisphairn, under the presentation in his favour; and recalling the licence given to the said Mr Affleck, to be a Probationer or Preacher of the Church of Scotland.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning, at half past ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 30. 1783. *Sess. 8th.*

Sederunt.

Resolved to consider the petition of Mr James Lawson, and Mr Fortune's cause, first to-morrow; and next to these, the petition and representation for the Synod of Perth, anent a process against Mr Archibald Renny.

The objection to the Commission from the University of St Andrews, along with the objection to the Commissions



sions from the burghs of Kirkcaldy and Dysart, heard; the objections repelled, and the Commissions sustained, in respect that the attestation by the Presbytery in each, was according to the form last transmitted in 1769.

An appeal of James M'Intosh in Garbel, and others, Heritors, Elders and Heads of Families of the united parishes of Moy and Dalarossie, against a sentence of the Synod of Moray, reversing a sentence of the Presbytery of Inverness, deposing Mr James M'Intosh, partly heard: Two motions were made and seconded; 1<sup>st</sup>, That in respect the whole proof not being printed, the members had not an opportunity of considering the same; therefore, that the cause should be referred to the Commission. 2<sup>d</sup>, That the Assembly proceed to hear and decide in the cause to-morrow. The question being put, the second motion carried. The Assembly, therefore, agreed to hear and decide in the cause to-morrow; and, for that purpose, appointed a Committee of the whole house to meet to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1783. *Seff. 9<sup>th</sup>.*

Sederunt.

Act approving of the accompt of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging Mr Robertson of the sum received by him, and appointing that he take credit in the next accompt, of the sum of L. 13: 16: 2, <sup>6</sup>/<sub>12</sub> Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the accompt of Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging Mr Cairncross of the sum received by him, and appointing that he debit himself in his next accompt, with the sum of L. 29: 13: 10 Sterling, being the balance due by him.

The accompt of Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church, ordered to be paid.

A report by the Procurator for the Church, relating to the public money, given in and read, and approved of by the Assembly; and the Assembly's thanks returned from the chair to the Procurator, for his diligence and assiduity in the affairs of the Church, and for his having so much reduced the debts due by the Church.

A petition for Mr John Ewart minister at Traquair, craving aid out of the public funds, with the Procurator's opinion thereon, produced and read, and the opinion approved of.

The report of the visitors of the Commission Record given in, and read, and the Commission's conduct approved. The Assembly's thanks given from the chair, to the Moderator of the Commission, for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and the book ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions for them, given in, and approved of.

The report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty Register called for; the conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commission and instructions to them.

The report of the Trustees of the Widows Fund produced, and ordered to lie on the table for the perusal of members.

Delayed calling for the reports of the visitors of the Synod-books till Monday.

The report of the Committee of the whole house, on the cause at the instance of the Parishioners of Moy and Dalarossie against Mr James M'Intosh, minister of these parishes, called for, produced and read; the Assembly unanimously agreed thereto; and therefore, the General Assembly finding themselves not ripe to decide, whether the sentence of the Synod ought to be affirmed or reversed, in respect that several material facts and circumstances stated in the libel have not been expiscated, Remit the cause to the Presbytery of Inverness, enjoining them to take such methods as the laws of this Church prescribe, for examining all the witnesses mentioned in the declaration of Barbara Main, particularly those who were at that time residing in or about the city of Edinburgh; and enjoining all other judicatories of this Church, who may be called upon by the Presbytery of Inverness, to co-operate with them in expiscating the truth; and summoned the parties *apud acta*, to attend such judicatories, when and where they shall be called: The Presbytery of Inverness appointed to report such additional proof to next General Assembly: Mr M'Intosh, in the mean time, suspended from the exercise of his ministry till the meeting of next Assembly; recommending to the Presbytery of Inverness, to take care that during that time the ordinances of religion be dispensed to the united parishes of Moy and Dalarossie.

The



I N D E X. 1783.

The petition of Mr Lawfon and of Mr Fortune, and the representation and petition for the Synod of Perth, delayed till Monday.

Adjournment.

June 2. 1783. *Seff. ult.*

Sederunt.

Reasons of dissent against the sentence passed on Wednesday last, on the overtures respecting the law of Patronage, given in, and openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Upon a motion by the agent for the pursuers in the cause against Mr James M'Intosh, the Assembly recommended to the Procurator to concur in any application to the civil power made to him, to oblige witnesses who shall be summoned, to give evidence in the said cause. List of Probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

The Synod-books of Lothian and Tweeddale, Fife and Angus, and Mearns, ordered to be attested.

The excuse of the visitors of the Synod-book of Glenelg, for not revising it, sustained, and the Synod ordered to bring up their book to next Assembly.

Act discharging Dr John Drysdale's intromissions with the window and house-tax money, and ordering that Dr Drysdale be accountable for the sum of L. 5 : 10 : 4 Sterling, being the balance in his hands.

The petition and representation of the Synod of Perth, respecting a process raised against Mr Ranny minister of Muckart, with regard to poors money, heard. The Procurator and Agent for the Church declared their willingness to give Mr Ranny all the assistance in their power.

Upon a motion, the Clerk ordered to print off a new edition of the Forms of Commissions, printed formerly in the year 1769, in which the subscription to each form is particularly marked, and to transmit them to Presbyteries, Kirk-sessions, Burghs and Universities, as soon as possible.

The accompt of stationary ware due by the Clerks to John and Elphinston Balfours, ordered to be paid.

The accompt due to Messrs Fleming and Tennent, ordered to be paid.

The Committee on erecting new parishes in the Highlands and islands renewed, with the usual powers.

The report of the Trustees for Managing the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing a state of  
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of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register for that purpose; the thanks of the house given to Dr Webster, for his extraordinary diligence and fidelity in his attention to said fund.

An appeal of Mr James Lawson, student in Divinity, against a sentence of the presbytery of Auchterarder, refusing him a certificate, and likewise refusing him originals or extracts of papers on the Presbytery's record, relative to his cause, heard. The sentence of the Presbytery affirmed, so far as it respects the certificates demanded by Mr Lawson; Mr Lawson allowed full extracts of every thing on the record of the Presbytery, relating to his cause, but no partial extracts; and if he ask papers that lie *in retentis*, he shall have attested copies of them.

Upon a motion, the Assembly agreed, that the words, "Solicitor or Agent," shall be added immediately after the words, "Counsel or Procurators," in the 4th act of Assembly 1751, and ordered, that the said act, with this addition, should be printed along with the acts of this Assembly. *Vide Printed Acts.*

An appeal of Mr James Fortune, student in Divinity, against a sentence of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, affirming a sentence of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, refusing to take Mr Fortune on trials, heard. The sentence of the Synod reversed, and remitted to the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take Mr Fortune upon trials, or to assign the causes of their refusal.

All causes before this Assembly, and not determined by them, and causes remitted by former Assemblies, and not determined, referred to the Commission, with power to them to judge and finally determine therein.

Protestations admitted.

A Committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this and all the other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this day's sederunt were read; the minutes of former sederunts being read at the diets subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the General Assembly, and his Majesty's Commissioner.

The Lord Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next diet of Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with Prayer and singing a Psalm.

